



The
National Intelligence
Daily

Published by the Director of Central Intelligence for Named Principals Only

TOP SECRET
No Foreign Dissem

Copy No. 116

THURSDAY AUGUST 15, 1974

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE

DATE: SEP 1999

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THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY

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End of Chile Executions Pledged

Chilean Junta President Pinochet has publicly pledged an end to executions and declared that severe disciplinary action is being taken against military men who have ignored government guidelines on the treatment of prisoners.

The government has followed a tactic "no execution" policy since early this year, but Pinochet's pledge puts the policy firmly on the public record. The Junta's concern that Chile's international image was having a negative impact on its arms procurement program—specifically that the US Congress might attempt to cut credits and sales—may have prompted the move.

Pinochet also said that trials of high-ranking Allende regime officials and leftist party leaders will be open to the press but permitted only limited publicity. He added that details of when and how these prisoners will be tried are still being worked out.

The prisoners will be charged with relatively minor civil offenses and tried in civil rather than military court. Many of them, perhaps including former Allende cabinet officers, will qualify for "conditional



President Pinochet during press interview August 12

liberty" if the time they already have spent in custody equals half their prison sentence.

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